(a) whether the Development and Reform Facility Programme was announced in the budget for 2002-2003 to incentivise States to introduce reforms that would accelerate growth;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified 132 districts spread across the country to be funded by the Central Government;

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken;

(d) what is the total amount so far released to the States; and

(e) how many schemes in these backward areas have been implemented so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAOVITHOBAADSUL):(a)Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the year 2002-03, District Plans in respect of 25 districts were approved.

(d) A sum of Rs. 187.50 crores has been released so far to the States under this programme.

(e) The funds under the scheme have been made available to the States only in the month of September, 2003.

Plantation companies

696. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of plantation companies banned by SEBI from raising funds during the last three years;

(b) whether there are any plantation companies in Madhya Pradesh that have been banned by SEBI for raising funds in the last three years;

(c) if so, the names of the companies and their Directors; and

(d) whether there are any plantation companies which has been declared defaulter or whose cheques have been dishonoured by the Bank and criminal cases filed against them; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a)to(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.